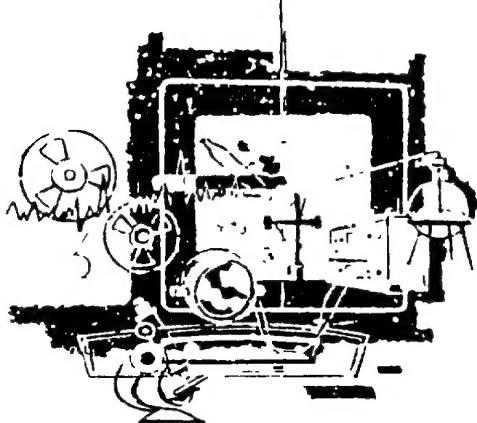


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Top Soviet Psychologists Call For Serious Research In Parapsychology (U)

In a paper entitled "Parapsychology: Fiction or Reality," V. P. Zinchenko, A. N. Leont'yev, B. F. Lomov, and A. R. Luriya indicate that many Soviet parapsychologists are engineers, mathematicians, and physicists rather than biologists or psychologists. In addition, many parapsychologists have gravitated to medical, physiological, and psychological posts for which they are unqualified. Although qualified in their own field but lacking qualifications in scientific psychology, these are people who have succeeded in observing only "astonishing" psychological phenomena, or they have become the victims of charlatans. In the opinion of the authors the attention of serious scientific organizations will aid in revealing the true nature of parapsychological phenomena, close the door to charlatans, and disperse the myths about the existence of a "parapsychological movement" in the USSR.

This paper probably signals the entry of Soviet academic psychologists into the field of paranormal research. It is also the first attempt by leading Soviet psychologists to caution against the sensational results of ill-conceived parapsychological experiments lacking stringent experimental controls. The authors are of the opinion that the secret and mystic aspects of such concepts as psychotronics, "bioinformation transfer," psychokinesis, hypnotism, and yoga are inappropriate as a basis for combining all these concepts into a single special field when their only common denominator is the fact that they are unexplainable phenomena. They do not discount the existence of such phenomena and indicate that rigorous scientific research must be applied to achieve truly adequate explanations.

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